

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ROME 03853 092005Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 /090 W

-----100613Z 091166 /11

R 091750Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3240

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

UNCLAS ROME 3853

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED INTERVIEW OF PMAC CHAIRMAN

REF.: ADDIS ABABA 1362

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SALIENT PARTS OF ARTICLE PUBLISHED MARCH 4 EDITION OF "LA REPUBBLICA", ROMAN LEFT-ORIENTED DAILY. ARTICLE COMPRISES AN INTERVIEW, DATE NOT STATED, BY "CUBAN JOURNALIS MIGUEL ROA" WITH ETHIOPIAN "CHIEF OF STATE", MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM.

2. "THE ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT OF FEBRUARY 3 WAS ONLY THE LATEST ATTEMPT OF REACTIONARY AND IMPERIALISTIC FORCES TO ELIMINATE THE PROGRESSIVES IN THE DERG. IN THE END, IT WAS THE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES THEMSELVES WHO WERE ELIMINATED AND NOW THE SITUATION IS MUCH IMPROVED, UNIT AND ACCORD HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATED IN THE DERG AND THE REVOLUTION CANPASS FROM THE DEFENSIVE TO THE OFFENSIVE. WE ARE A LONG WAY STILL FROM HAVING RESOLVED ALL OUR PROBLEMS."

3. QUESTION: "THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ACCUSED THE USA AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ROME 03853 092005Z

THE CIA IN REGARD TO WHAT HAPPENED ON FEBRUARY 3": RESPONSE:

"I CONFIRM IT. I CITE IN THIS REGARD THE SO-CALLED SPENCER REPORT, PRESENTED BY THE CIA TO THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AFTER THE FALL OF THE EMPEROR, IN WHICH IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE US SHOULD MAINTAIN WITH ETHIOPIA THE SAME CLOSE TIES THAT EXISTED WITH THE EARLIER FASCIST AND FEUDAL REGIME. ALL IN ORDER TO CONTROL THE SITUATION AND NEUTRALIZE THE REVOLUTIONARY TREND

THAT WAS MAKING PROGRESS. TO PUT THIS PLAN INTO ACTION, THE AMERICANS CHOSE TWO COURSES. ON THE ONE HAND, THEY ENCOURAGE FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR THE ERITREAN SEPARATISTS FIGHTING AGAINST US. AT THE SAME TIME THEY SUPPORT THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES, EITHER IN THE CAPITAL TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE PROPITIOUS FOR A COUP, OR IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES WHERE THE OLD ARISTOCRACY SENDS ARMED BANDS TO SHOOT SOLDIER AND PEASANT. THE WAVE OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS WHICH HAS RECENTLY DEVELOPED IS ALSO PART OF THIS STRATEGY."

4. QUESTION: "FOR SOME TIME THE SUDAN HAS SEEMED THE COUNTRY MOST HOSTILE TO YOU. WHY?" RESPONSE: "THERE IS UNDERWAY IN ETHIOPIA A REVOLUTION THAT GOES TOWARD SOCIALISM, WHICH TERRORIZES ALL CONSERVATIVE FORCES AND ABOVE ALL CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH FEAR CONTAGION. THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS EXTERMINATED A GREAT MANY COMMUNISTS AND PERSECUTED THE POPULAR FORCES, AND WHICH HAD EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE ETHIOPIAN FEUDAL REGIME, FEARS US. THE HOSTILITY BECAME EVIDENT AFTER THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT NUMEIRI TO WASHINGTON AND AFTER SIGNING OF THE THREE-WAY EGYPTIAN/ SAUDI/REACTIONARY AGREEMENT. SO WHAT IS THE SUDAN DOING? IT SUPPORTS THE ERITREAN SEPARATISTS, GIVING THEM ARMS, MONEY, OFFICES AND ASSISTANCE. THE ERITREANS HAVE JUST OPENED A RADIO STATION IN THE SUDAN, PAID FOR WITH AMERICAN AND SUDI MONEY. BUT THE SUDAN ALSO HARBORS AND HELPS THE OLD ETHIOPIAN ARISTOCRACY AND ITS MERCENARY BANDS. ALL OF WHICH IS TIED TO THE INNER QUOTE SPENCER REPORT END INNER QUOTE WHICH I MENTIONED."

5. (CONCERNING A POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI/SOUTH YEMEN ALLIANCE): UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 03853 092005Z

"WE ARE WORKING IN THAT DIRECTION. WE HAVE MADE TO SOMALIA CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATION. WE HAVE PROPOSED CREATION OF A COMMON AIRLINE, OF A COMMON TELECOMMUNICATIONS NET, AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES BUT WE HOPE TO OVERCOME THEM. AS FOR DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, WE ALREADY ENJOY EXCELLENT RELATIONS, WHICH GIVES US REASON TO HOPE THAT CREATION OF A REGIONAL FRONT TO COMBAT THE HEGEMONIC PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES IS POSSIBLE." BEAUDRY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESS CONFERENCES, TRANSLATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ROME03853  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770082-0056  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770377/aaaacqdp.tel  
**Line Count:** 106  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c1d2d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ADDIS ABABA 1362  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3161458  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED INTERVIEW OF PMAC CHAIRMAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ET, US, PMAC, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c1d2d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009